(c) The steps taken to curb crime by the terrorists include intensification of the police patrolling; stationing of additional Police pickets at vulnerable and strategic points; strengthening of security arrangements at various missions, embassies residences of diplomats; house-to-house survey of suburban and remote areas to preclude the possibility of terrorists taking shelter in them; display of photographs of terrorists in public places; educating the public through media not to touch suspicious objects and to remain vigilant.

Working schedule of ONGC

581. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC have at present both the 5-day and 6-day week schedule;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the work schedule was approved by the Department of Personnel; and

(d) whether it is a fact that this schedule has affected the efficiency and working of the Commission and if so, what remedial measures Govt. have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This is with a view to provide flexibility as required.

(c) The Commission is competent to take such decision.

(d) No, Sir.

New Environment Policy

582. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the new Environment Policy;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof; and

(c) what is the date from which the new policy is likely to become effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Public Investment Board for proposed Oil Refinery at Numaligarh in Assam

583. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted the PIB (Public Investment Board) for the proposed oil refinery at Numaligarh in Assam; and

(b) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The proposal of oil refinery at Numaligarh in Assam is under the consideration of PIB.

Criticism of O.N.G.C.

584. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Financial Express dated 1st November, 1991 under the caption 'steps to increase oil output by 8 million tons' regarding criticism of O.N.G.C.;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering a proposal to conduct an inquiry into the functioning of O.N.G.C. and squandering of funds thereby;

(d) whether un-productive wells involving huge losses are likely to be closed; and

(e) what is the number of wells which are running in losses but are being kept open for non-commercial reasons by ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The news item has come to Government's notice.

(c) No such decision has been taken.

(d) and (e) ONGC has reported that all their operating wells are commercially viable.

Gas linkage to Gandhar and Pipavav Power Project

585. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the clearance of 615 MW electricity generation Gandhar and Pipavav power projects of Gujarat has been held up due to non-confirmation of Gas Linkage;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the non-confirmation of gas linkage;

(c) what is the per annum requirement of gas for these projects; and

(d) whether Government have ascertained the economic feasibility of developing the Tapti Offsore fields?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) The availability of gas for Gujarat Government's Gandhar Power Project is being reviewed.

A decision had been taken in principle to allocate gas for the Pipavav Power Plant. However, this is dependent on the economic feasibility of developing the Tapti Offshore fields of ONGC.

Gas reserves in Eastern States

586. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the eastern region of our sub-Continent, including our eastern states has vast reserves of gas;

(b) whether the International Finance Corporation has offered to finance the gas pipeline from Bangladesh to West Bengal;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Bangladesh has shown interest in supplying gas to India;

(d) whether Government have examined the feasibility of carrying gas from Tripura to India through the Bangladesh-West Bengal pipeline; and

(e) whether Government are considering the offer of the International Finance Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Reserves of gas have been found in the eastern part of the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir:

(d) No decision has been taken.

(e) Does not arise in view of (b) above.